

Save South Tyneside Hospital Campaign



C/O Unison Office
South Tyneside District Hospital
South Shields
Tyne & Wear
NE340PL

Press Statement Tuesday – 13/11/2018:

SSTHC Request the Evidence on Ken Bremner's (CEO) claims of “unanimously backed plans” for the merger of South Tyneside Health Care Trust with City Hospitals Sunderland

The *Save South Tyneside Hospital Campaign* (SSTHC) at its meeting on October 29 asked its organisers to prepare a statement condemning the announcement of Ken Bremner CEO of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust when he claimed that he had “unanimously backed plans”, (Gazette 26 October), for the merger of South Tyneside Health Care Trust with City Hospitals Sunderland. The meeting which was representative of the staff and people from all walks of life in South Tyneside called on him to provide evidence that the claimed 1,000 feedback responses gave “broad understanding, particularly among staff and stakeholders” about the merger. In fact it was pointed out at the meeting of SSTHC that a survey conducted by Unison in the Hospital registered overwhelming opposition to the merger and far from “broad understanding” staff were really concerned about the impact on the services they provide in South Tyneside and their jobs in particular the overwhelming majority were concerned that staff had applied to work in South Tyneside and had no desire to work in Sunderland Hospital.

Roger Nettleship Chair SSTHC said: “Ken Bremner also tried to reassure patients that hospitals in Sunderland and South Tyneside will ‘absolutely continue to exist’ as the merger of two NHS trusts moves a step closer. But unless he can provide the evidence for his “unanimously backed plans” to merge how will anyone believe his reassurances and what kind of NHS and 'path to excellence' will be created in South Tyneside and Sunderland. This is why we will continue to fight for our hospitals and hospital services and are already taking the fight into the court on December 18th over the down grading of the Childrens A&E, Maternity and stroke services which will seriously undermine health care in South Tyneside and Sunderland.”

A full response of SSTHC to the merger can be found on our website
http://www.savesouthtynesidehospital.org/news/response_to_stft_chs_merger/

Unison has conducted a proper survey of its members in South Tyneside District Hospital and according to their representative: “UNISON received over 400 completed surveys’ back. The majority do not want to merge. The few that say ‘yes’ to the merge still have major concerns. The staff has made it loud and clear they don’t want to work in Sunderland Hospital. UNISON will be submitting a response to the merger.”

For further details on survey contact Marion Langley Unison South Tyneside Health Branch Secretary: 07796267755

Approved November 12th meeting of SSTHC

Save South Tyneside Hospital Campaign
Contact: Chair Roger Nettleship
E-mail: roger.nettleship@blueyonder.co.uk
Mobile: 07963506451

website: <http://www.savesouthtynesidehospital.org/>
facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SaveSouthTynesideHospital/>